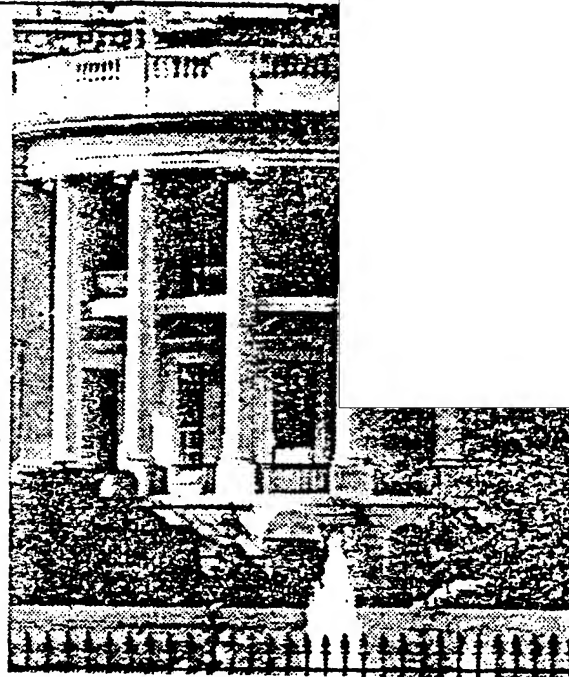


STAT
ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 1

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR
7 December 1981

THWARTING TERRORISM



Controversial guidelines give CIA, FBI a freer rein

By Daniel Southerland

Staff correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor
Washington

President Reagan's newly issued executive order on intelligence activities is designed as much as anything to help rebuild the morale and confidence of the US Central Intelligence Agency.

It is also designed to give the CIA and FBI an additional degree of freedom as they attempt to counter the threat of terrorism. In theory at least, under

Analysis

the new guidelines the intelligence agencies will be better able to cope with the type of assassination teams that Libya is believed to have trained to attack top US officials, including the President himself.

Reagan administration officials came to the conclusion that an earlier Carter administration order had been unduly restrictive and was impairing the performance of the intelligence agencies.

But most experts on the subject seem to agree that there is no simple solution available to solve many of the problems that have beset the CIA and other intelligence agencies. The failure of the intelligence agen-

cies to foresee developments in Iran, for example, derived in part from a broader problem within the US government. The CIA's capability to gather information from Iran and to analyze it was limited. But no one at the top of the government seemed to be asking the right questions or be capable of facing the bad news when it came.

More than 100 organizations concerned with civil liberties have, meanwhile, condemned President Reagan's executive order as providing insufficient protection of Americans' constitutional rights. These groups are concerned that the new order allows the CIA too much freedom to spy on Americans both at home and abroad. Some of these groups are also concerned that the CIA may once again be getting into the business of helping to overthrow foreign governments.

Within the government the problem looks different. Some officials of the CIA itself are said to be concerned that the executive order goes too far in the direction of allowing spying on Americans. The 17-page order for the first time permits the CIA to collect "significant" foreign intelligence from Ameri-

CONTINUED